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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/727,985

12/05/2003

Katsuhito Gomi

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23373

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12/14/2005

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EXAMINER

LEE, SUSAN SHUK YIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2852

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/727,985

Applicant(s)

GOMI ET AL.

Examiner

Susan S. Lee

Art Unit

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 10-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-9 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Objections

Claims 5-9 and 18 are objected to because of the following informalities:

As to claim 5, lines 8-9, it is not clear what "an upper side of the press contact portion" or "a downstream side of an air flow from the outlet of the press contact portion" defines. What are they with respect to?

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 5, 6, 9, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al. (2003/0081970).

Yamamoto et al. discloses a fixing roller 6 with a heater (note page 1, paragraph [0004]) and a pressing roller 7 that contacts the fixing roller 6 (Fig. 7) at a press contact portion. An upper separator plate 51 that reads on the instant invention's exfoliating member that is used to help separate the print medium from the fixing roller 6 (note page 1, paragraph [0005]). The exfoliating member 51 is located on an upper side of the press contact portion with respect to a substantially horizontal direction. Openings 55 read on the instant invention's notch hole of the exfoliating member 51. The notch hole 55 allows steam and water drops from moisture deposited on the print medium 19 and toner to escape. Note page 4, paragraph [0083]. In another embodiment, contact rollers 76 and 77 are mounted on the exfoliating member 71. Note page 5, paragraph [0094]. As to the projected portion formed on the guide face of the exfoliating member 71, the rollers 76 and 77 read on that limitations in claim 18.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. (2003/0081970) in view of Yajima et al. (5,517,292).

Yamamoto et al., as discussed above, differs from the instant invention by not disclosing material of the rollers of the exfoliating member.

Yajima et al. discloses a fusing apparatus with a separating unit 35 having a claw 36. A paper guide member 37 is at the bottom side of the separation claw 36 and has two movable rollers 38 that are rotatably attached to the front end of the paper guide member 37 in the paper feed direction (Fig. 7, column 8, line 23- column 9, line 8). Each roller 38 is made from a highly slippery fluoric resin.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Yamamoto et al. with that of Yajima et al. so that further separating of sheet from the fixing roller can be obtained. Since the roller 38 is made of a highly slippery material, sticking of sheets to fixing roller would be prevented.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4 and 10-17 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kuo et al. (6,785,503) and Iida (6,205,316) disclose art in paper stripping members from the fixing rollers.

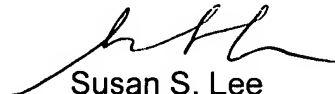
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan S. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2137. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 10:30-8:00, Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Art Grimley can be reached on 571-272-2136 or 571-272-2800 (Ext. 52).

Art Unit: 2852

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Susan S. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

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